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HERBERT B. HAW AS GOVERNOR OF UTAH

by

John C. Setmire

Report No. 1 submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

Master of Science

in

History

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INTRODUCTION

Herbert B. Maw, like many other Utahns, is a self made man, a poor boy who sold newspapers from the age of ten to fifteen, and worked nights to put himself through college. He graduated from the University of Utah in 1923 with a Bachelor's of Science Degree, and in 1926 he obtained a Master's Degree from Northwestern University. Maw received his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1927 from Northwestern University, and in the same year he was elected to the Utah Senate on the Democratic ticket. In 1934 Maw ran for the United States Senate and lost the election, however, in the same year he was elected President of the Utah Senate, an office which he held until he left that legislative body in 1938, after serving for eleven years. While in the senate, Maw became the champion of progressive legislation in the fields of labor, social security, utility control, and political reform, such as the direct primary.¹ Regular party leaders disliked Maw and his progressive movement. They claimed that by his amiable manner, his ability to speak (he was a professor of speech at the University of Utah), and his emotional appeal, he exploited an element of discontent purely for political and personal advantage.²

¹Rothe, Anna (ed.), "Governor Maw", Current Biography, New York: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1948, 430.

²Donnelly, Thomas (ed.), Rocky Mountain Politics, (Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1940), 22.

Maw first sought the governorship in 1936, when he almost defeated incumbent Henry Blood for the Democratic nomination. In 1940 Maw won the nomination for governor in the Utah Primaries. This was the first time the direct primary was used in Utah, and it was under Maw's leadership as a senator that the direct primary was passed by the State Legislature.³ On November 6, 1940, Maw defeated Donald B. Colton, a strong Republican opponent in the gubernatorial election by 12,357 votes.⁴

Maw was a good Churchman and had been one of three Mormon Chaplains in the United States Army during World War I.⁵ He had served on the boards of the Deseret Sunday School Union and the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. Maw resigned voluntarily from the General Board of the Deseret Sunday School Union because he did not believe in high state officials holding important Church positions, and did not want to be responsible for possible embarrassment which might have come to the Church because of the malicious attacks on his character.⁶

³Ibid.

⁴Salt Lake Tribune, November 6, 1940, p. 1.

⁵Gunther, John, Inside United States of America, (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1947), 205.

⁶Deseret News, November 4, 1940, p. 2.

FIRST ADMINISTRATION

Maw's first project as governor was to purge the Democratic Party of all ultra conservatives. His reason for this was to install his own men and to reorganize the administration. His reorganization was so extensive that jobs became scarce, even for his own men, and many became dissatisfied.⁷

On January 13, 1941, the Utah House of Representatives convened, and the Governors Message was delivered by Maw. Maw stated that the future economic security of the state depended on a strong industrial program. The laws which discouraged capital investments should be eliminated, and attention should be given to legislation which would improve the working conditions for farm and industrial laborers. He recommended that the State Legislature consider legislation which would raise incomes, improve working conditions of labor, stimulate industry, and improve agriculture.⁸

After investigating the efficiency of the state government, Maw concluded there were too many administrative officers, and that many of the commissioners and department heads did not have enough work to justify their existence. Many of the departments activities overlapped each other, which resulted in unnecessary expenditures.

⁷ Gunther, John, Inside United States of America, (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1947), 203. (See also the Salt Lake Tribune, May 6, 1941 and May 23, 1941).

⁸ Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah: Twenty-Fourth Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Arrow Press, 1943), 7.

He suggested that the faults in the government could be corrected by the limitation of the numerous boards, commissions, departments, and other official agencies, which were created by previous legislation. According to Maw the state's activities should be classified into as few units as possible, with an organization to head each of these units. He urged that the number of departments and commissions be reduced one-hundred and four to only fifteen, and pointed out that this method of consolidation had worked for other states in saving them money and increasing their efficiency. Since Utah had more under-developed resources than most other states, Maw wanted to provide employment for industrial workers and revenue for agricultural industries, so he urged the state legislature to adopt his proposed reorganization since his goals could be rapidly achieved through a well ordered and efficient government.⁹

After considering Maw's proposals, the state legislature enacted a reorganization similar to what the governor had recommended, however, without the Department of Higher Education, Department of Law, Department of State, and the Executive Department. Many boards and other agencies were abolished or placed into one of the twelve departments and commissions set up by the legislature. The Utah Highway Patrol was separated from the Highway Commission and put into a department with the militia and the Bureau of Criminal Identification. The new Department of Publicity and Industrial Development promoted and established new industries in order to utilize Utah's vast resources. Most of Utah's resources

⁹Salt Lake Tribune, January 14, 1941, p. 1.

were being shipped outside the state where finished products were made or refined. It was through this department that home industries were to be developed, and the tourist trade was also to come under this department, however, not much was done in this area during Maw's first administration because of World War II.¹⁰

Maw also recommended reforms for the old age assistance and relief program. The Governor urged that the state legislature should allow a person over sixty-five to earn or receive up to ten dollars per month without affecting his right to state aid. The maximum relief for the elderly was set at thirty dollars per month, and was to be supplied by the county, state, and federal government. This amount was to be financed by the revenues from the state sales tax, plus federal and county grants. The Governor also recommended a reserve fund which would consist of all unused portions of the sales tax revenue for that year. This fund was to be used by the governor for periods when the incoming funds could not meet the needs of the people. He recommended a new department of welfare in the executive branch, functioning on the principle of helping the clients help themselves, rather than a social service program, which was in operation during previous administrations. The latter program's philosophy was that the state would carefully supervise how a recipient of relief should spend the funds given to him each month. This program required the employment of many investigators and book keepers to keep a detailed record of each individual. Maw urged the former program

¹⁰ Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, Twenty-Fourth Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Arrow Press, 1941), 20.

of helping the clients help themselves. Under this program the state determined the amount needed by the recipient and then permitted him to spend this allotment as he desired.¹¹

Under Maw's suggestion the Public Welfare System underwent an extensive reorganization. All local public welfare institutions were abolished, and a three man Public Welfare Commission was set up to administer the public welfare assistance programs throughout the state. The commission was faced with the problem of rationing goods and supplies, a shortage of personnel, and the many federal restrictions imposed during World War II. The commission performed its task very well and was a tribute to the administration, since it made advances during the war without sacrificing its standards.¹²

During Maw's first administration industry was brought into Utah, as promised by the governor in his campaign speeches. In April of 1941, Maw met with officials from the War Department and with President Franklin Roosevelt in an attempt to obtain a small arms and ammunition plant for Utah. Maw pointed out that there were 23,000 men available for employment in such an installation. Later the President announced Utah would receive an ammunition plant, since there was enough land, employees, water, and housing facilities for the installation. The Utah Ordnance Plant in Salt Lake County was originated on July 22, 1941, and began purchasing labor and materials from the local area, which helped relieve the economic depression in Utah. The plant was completed in March of

¹¹ Ibid., p. 21.

¹² McKell, Charles, "The Utah State Hospital", Utah Historical Quarterly, XXII (October, 1955), 309.

1942, and at that time the unemployment ratio in Utah had dropped from 9.8 per cent in 1930 to 1.5 per cent in 1942. The plant was operated by the United States Government until 1948, when it was sold by the government to private investors.¹³

The ammunition plant trained many people in assembly-line procedures and technological skills which could be utilized after the war. Other favorable results included higher wage levels for Utahns and business opportunities for local enterprises.¹⁴

Most of the war industries and industrial expansion benefited northern Utah, while the southern and eastern parts of the state lost some of their population to the north. Under the Department of Publicity and Industrial Development an effort was made to aid different sections of the state, with the purpose of stimulating industry. This program benefited other areas of the state. In Kane County several motion pictures were filmed after a road was built, making the area accessible by automobile. This brought in over \$100,000 for each picture filmed in the county. In Manti, the Federal Government built a storage building for war purposes, and after the war a parachute company rented the building, which brought industry and more capital into Sanpete County. Several other state projects were carried on in Duchesne, Uintah, Emery,

¹³ Alexander, Thomas, and Arrington, Leonard, "Utah's Small Ammunition Plant During World War II", Pacific Historical Review, XXXIV (May, 1965), 186-196.

¹⁴ Ibid.

Iron, Millard, and other counties, which helped the economic conditions in these counties considerably.¹⁵

In 1941, the plans for the Geneva Steel Plant were completed and submitted to the Federal Government. The steel plant had been promised to Utah as a result of Haw's conference with President Roosevelt, and because Utah was one of three states in the nation which contained both iron ore and coking coal. The location of Orem, Utah, at the fork of the transcontinental rail lines, made it the center of western industrial capitals, which assured adequate transportation of materials.¹⁶

The plant was constructed as a wartime measure, and produced its first steel on February 3, 1944. After Germany's collapse in May of 1945, the plant production decreased and by November of 1945, the plant was virtually closed. On May 23, 1946, the Federal Government sold the Geneva Steel Plant to the U. S. Steel Corporation, and it was converted to peace time production.¹⁷

According to Haw the electricity rates in Utah were higher than several neighboring states and before industry could prosper, it would be necessary to obtain cheap electricity. September 12, 1943, the State Public Service Commission ordered the Utah Power and Light Company to reduce its rates. The company's rates were

¹⁵ Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, Twenty-Fifth Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Arrow Press, 1943), 29.

¹⁶ Roe, James, "Some Important Impacts of Geneva Steel in the Utah Economy", (Unpublished Master's dissertation, Utah State University, 1953), 20.

¹⁷ Ibid.

found to be unreasonable, since they had \$1,504,644 in excess after making the allotted six per cent profit. The company was over capitalized and dominated by absentee owners. It was forced to reduce its rates by \$1,504,644 annually, which resulted in a fifteen per cent reduction for residential users and a twenty-seven per cent reduction for commercial users.¹⁸

The Utah Power and Light Company appealed the decision lowering its rates to the Utah Supreme Court. The court said the rates set by the State Public Service Commission were fair both to the consumer and to the company. The attempt of the Utah Power and Light Company to return the rates to the former level failed.¹⁹

After the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, the Federal Government requested that states set up civil defense organizations to meet any further emergencies. The Twenty-Fourth Legislature of Utah complied with this request immediately by organizing and training people in civil defense programs. People were urged to attend classes in First Aid, Fire Prevention, Police Protection, Public Health Protection, Public Welfare, and in many other areas. Many people took these classes voluntarily, and also participated in salvage drives. The school teachers in Utah registered citizens for rationing.²⁰ On February 3, 1942, a war measure beginning

¹⁸ Salt Lake Tribune, September 12, 1943, p. 1.

¹⁹ Ibid., February 18, 1944, p. 20.

²⁰ Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, Twenty-fifth Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Arrow Press, 1943), 10.

daylight savings time was issued by the governor so that everyone could finish their job and return home before dark. Maw also urged that United States Savings Bonds and Stamps be bought to aid the effort. Utah was complimented on their fine war effort and civil defense program being pointed out as a leader among the states by the Federal Government.²¹

²¹Salt Lake Tribune, February 4, 1942, p. 9.

THE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION OF 1944

Maw began his campaign for re-election on April 21, 1944, by stating his objectives for the coming administration. Maw said he would work toward a complete reorganization of the various departments of the state government, and continue to encourage industry into the state by converting war plants into peace time production, so that jobs would be available for those returning from the war. Maw insisted on as little aid from the Federal Government as possible for the stimulation of post-war business. He had already consulted labor, industry, agriculture, and other groups able to contribute to Utah's economic welfare during peace time. He said he would continue land reclamation projects and reorganizing the welfare program for the aged and those who could not take care of themselves.²²

Maw also stated he would adjust the financial program for the public school system so teachers could obtain higher salaries, and better school facilities could be constructed in the state. He stood on the record of his past administration, and stressed the reduction of public utility rates along with the forty per cent increase in money allotted for the aged. Maw emphasized that \$3,290,000 had been given to underpaid teachers in the state, and pointed out that for the first time in history Utah was debt free.

²²Ibid., April 21, 1944, p. 17.

Maw concluded by saying that the state operated on \$360,000 less in 1944 than it did in 1940.²³

In the primary election, held on July 12, 1944, J. Bracken Lee obtained the nomination for the Republican Party. Lee obtained 23,068 votes out of 35,310 cast by the Republican Party, while Maw received 25,390 votes out of 40,708 cast by the Democratic Party. Lee's program was one of reducing government spendings and returning the government to the people without political discrimination.²⁴

Before the 1944 Gubernatorial Election, a group of men headed by Dr. Francis W. Kirkham, investigated J. Bracken Lee, the Republican candidate. Lee came from a mining town where morals might not be up to the standards of the Mormon Church. A pamphlet titled "Morals and the Mayor", was issued by this group indicating the corrupt situation in Price where Lee was mayor. After an investigation, the Deseret News insisted that this group, in issuing the pamphlet, sought to destroy J. Bracken Lee as a candidate for governor rather than to improve the moral standards of Price.²⁵ It was rumored that the Mormon Church had fostered the pamphlet, but the church stated that none of its agencies had any part in the preparation or distribution of the pamphlet.²⁶ The church hierarchy

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid., July 12, 1944, p. 9.

²⁵ Deseret News, November 22, 1944, p. 1.

²⁶ Ibid., November 4, 1944, p. 4.

favored Maw over Lee because they feared the latter might open the state to hard liquor and gambling.²⁷

The election was held on November 6, 1944, and Maw defeated Lee by only 1076 votes.²⁸ Many conservative forces united behind Lee, who claimed election irregularities and demanded an investigation. A non-partisan committee was set up to determine the validity of the vote. The committee discovered that Lee had twenty more votes than previously thought, bringing the final margin to 1056 votes in favor of Maw.²⁹

²⁷ Ibid., November 3, 1944, p. 6.

²⁸ Salt Lake Tribune, November 6, 1944, p. 1.

²⁹ Ibid., December 9, 1944, p. 17.

SECOND ADMINISTRATION

On January 1, 1945, Maw was sworn into office for his second term as governor. He continued to urge a further reorganization of the state government, and warned of the problem involved in creating jobs for the people returning from the war.³⁰

At the Twenty-Sixth Legislature, Maw urged the legislature to adopt several proposals mentioned in his message to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Governor recommended a program for the returning war veterans, providing them with an opportunity to earn an adequate living in the state. Veteran Service Centers were set up for the returning servicemen with the purpose of contacting and advising the men on the benefits available for them from the Federal Government. Another major function of the Veteran Service Centers was to help these men in obtaining jobs and providing guidance.³¹

Maw urged Utah to prepare for the utilization of its share of the water from the Colorado River, since reclamation projects would bring additional wealth to the state. The legislature did not act on this proposal until 1947, when it established the Utah Water and Power Board. He also recommended an increase in the gas tax from four to five cents per gallon to finance the construction of roads,

³⁰ Ibid., January 2, 1945, p. 1.

³¹ Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, Twenty-Sixth Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Arrow Press, 1945), 19.

and that this increase be especially earmarked for secondary roads. He pointed out that many of the people in rural areas were still traveling over the same dirt roads their grandparents used and during the winter some towns were almost completely isolated. The governor recommended a post-war building project. Hospitals, museums, a workshop for the blind, governmental buildings, and athletic buildings were among the major constructions mentioned by him. During the next two years the following buildings were completed: a tuberculosis hospital, hospitals for crippled children, a workshop for the blind, and a four year medical school.³²

During Maw's second administration, Utah labor and business organized the Utah State Industry-Labor Council under the leadership of Gus Backman, Executive Secretary of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, to discuss and find agreement on legislative issues. With this cooperation four bills under dispute were passed by the legislature. These bills covered occupational disease legislation, workman's compensation laws, unemployment insurance, and regulations for working conditions in the mines. These two groups did not sacrifice their principles, but negotiated until a suitable agreement was reached.³³

At the Twenty-Seventh Legislature, Maw urged both houses to pass legislation providing additional water for Utah's farmers. According to the governor this could be done by building small dams and reservoirs to store the early run-off water, and

³² ibid., p. 25.

³³ Engel, Lewis (ed.), "Labor and Business Legislate Together," Business Week, XX (March, 1945).

constructing water storage and hydro-electric power units on major streams. Maw stated that there were approximately three hundred small reservoir sites within Utah. Since it was not possible for the farmer or local government to finance this project, the state government would finance the building of small dams and reservoirs. Maw recommended a board consisting of capable farmers, engineers, and other citizens with the authority to receive and spend appropriations, along with a one million dollar revolving fund to be used at the board's discretion. The legislature followed Maw's advice and created the Utah Water and Power Board for the purpose of water conservation within the state.³⁴

The sum of \$150,000 was recommended by the Governor and adopted by the legislature for the state engineer, who had the authority to negotiate a compact for the division of the waters from the Upper Colorado River Basin. The money allotted to the state engineer was to be used for employing the necessary experts needed to protect Utah's rights in the Colorado River Project.³⁵

Maw claimed the tourist business in Utah needed expansion. The Department of Publicity and Industrial Development had been established in 1941, to help promote the tourist business. Now the state needed to build new roads to make the scenic beauties of the state accessible by automobile, rather than by foot. Most of the people who traveled through Utah stopped to view the Temple Square in Salt Lake City, and then hurried on to vacation spots in

³⁴ Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, Twenty-Seventh Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Arrow Press, 1947), 11.

³⁵ Ibid., p. 12.

other states. Maw believed the state could capitalize on the tourist trade by keeping these people in the state for a longer period of time. If the tourists were to remain in the state longer, the merchants, restaurant owners, lodging establishments, and gas companies would benefit greatly by the extra spendings of the tourist. According to Maw the construction of roads by the government could easily be paid off in the coming years by the increase in revenue from the tourist trade; however, not much was accomplished in the development of roads during his administrations because of the war and lack of funds.³⁶

1947 was the Centennial Year for Utah. The President of the Centennial Commission was David O. McKay, and the managership was under Gus P. Backman, who was in charge of planning the events for the year. Many committees throughout the state also planned events which provided culture, education, inspiration, and amusement for the people in Utah. The Governor urged the state legislature to appropriate the funds requested by the Centennial Commission for the amount of \$861,000, with \$500,000 of this amount to be set aside in a revolving fund for the preparation of expositions and buildings for the fair grounds. The state legislature complied with Maw's request.³⁷

During Maw's second administration, he urged that immediate plans be made for developing potential agricultural areas. The legislature partially fulfilled this plan by creating the Utah Water and Power Board. The combined program of research between

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid., p. 30.

the federal and state government was never achieved by the governor. Haw strongly advocated this plan since it would help develop methods and techniques for increasing the efficiency of existing land and in guiding the reclamation of new lands. He also stated that more research was needed for irrigation-agriculture, since it was vital to the United States and the world. According to Haw the basic irrigation problems were the following: water supply, hydraulics of irrigation, irrigation requirements, methods of water application, disposal of excess water, and control of alkali.³⁸

Haw also supported national legislation during his second term. In 1944 he was appointed as a member of the National Committee Against Nazi Persecution and Extermination of the Jews. Haw favored federal aid to the states, and in 1948 he voted along with twenty-four other governors for the Taft Plan, which granted federal aid to the states for health programs.³⁹

³⁸Haw, Herbert, "Irrigation", State Government, XXI (July, 1948), 94.

³⁹Rothe, Anna (ed.), "Governor Haw", Current Biography, (New York: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1948), 432.

ROLES IN THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCES

From 1943 to 1948, Haw played an important role in the annual conferences of the state governors. At the Governor's Conference in 1943, which was held at Columbus, Ohio, Haw urged action to remove federal control of post war activities without eliminating government assistance to the states. Haw stated that many politically irresponsible bureaus had been created by the federal government and that they owed no allegiance to any party, were not affected by elections, and were not controlled by the will of the people even though they had strong political influences in the nation. Haw said:

Such a condition is not good in a democracy even when the bureaus have no policy making authority; to the extent that groups beyond the reach of the voters have power to make rules and decisions that affect liberties, democratic government is weakened.⁴⁰

Haw also stated that these bureaus were strictly a presidential machine to promote his own personal ambitions.⁴¹ Haw was complimented by the governors on his non-partisan stand against the bureaucracy. The conference concluded with a resolution proposed by Haw, which stated the conference's point of view that further encroachments upon states rights by the Federal Government would

⁴⁰"The Governor's Conference", State Government, XXVI (August, 1943), 180.

⁴¹Salt Lake Tribune, June 26, 1943.

be resisted and the power relinquished for war purposes should be recovered after the war.⁴²

At the 1944 Governor's Conference, Herbert Haw was chosen chairman for the coming year by the new Executive Committee, which consisted of nine governors from the following states: Connecticut, Illinois, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Utah, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Alabama, and California.⁴³

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Governor's Conference was held at Mackinac Island from July 1-4. Haw opened the conference with the President's message, and then reviewed the enviable war record of the states, which he said, "Faithfully and efficiently carried out the tasks assigned to them, and have proved the effectiveness of state control over problems of national scope."⁴⁴ Haw also stated the selective service problem, which was administered by the state and local governments, was carried out very well and the local political units could handle difficult problems very smoothly if given the chance. He again spoke of the problem of the encroachment of the federal government on states rights during the war, which was of great concern to most governors. Haw urged congress to set the policies and services, but put the responsibility of carrying out the policies in the hands of the state governments,

⁴²"The Governor's Conference", State Government, XXVI (August, 1943), 180.

⁴³"The Governor's Conference", State Government, XXXII (July, 1944), 371.

⁴⁴"The Governor's At Mackinac", State Government, XXVIII (August, 1945), 140.

rather than the bureaus with whom the majority of the people had little influence. According to Maw if the federal government and state governments could cooperate with each other, the majority of the programs could be carried out efficiently.⁴⁵

Salt Lake City was the host for the Thirty-Ninth Governor's Conference, which began on June 16, 1947. Maw welcomed the governors to Utah, which was then celebrating its Centennial Year. On Sunday evening preceding the formal convening of the conference, the governors and their parties toured Temple Square and attended a concert in the Tabernacle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. After the concert there was an informal reception and buffet supper at the Governor's Mansion, where the visiting governors were welcomed by the Governor and Mrs. Maw. Maw did not play a major role in the proceedings of the conference, however, he did receive compliments from the governors on Utah's fine hospitality.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Ibid., p. 141.

⁴⁶ Salt Lake Tribune, June 17, 1947, p. 1.

THE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION OF 1948

Maw was one of two Democratic governors defeated in 1948; the other was Monroed Wallgren of Washington. Both governors experienced liquor problems in their administrations and in Washington, as in Utah, every other Democratic candidate for state office was elected.⁴⁷ Many people believed that Maw would run for congress in 1948, since he won the election by such a narrow margin in 1944. It was also rumored that the Governor might seek an important regional post in the Federal Bureaucracy, however, these rumors proved to be false and he ran for his third term.⁴⁸

The election year was marked by scandal in the administration of liquor laws. On March 1, 1948, a fake burglary was staged to cover up the deficit in a state liquor agency. Two men, Cyrus U. Lack, operator of the store and Robert S. Harries, head of the enforcement bureau of the State Liquor Department, were convicted of embezzlement and bribery. On the witness stand, Lack claimed that Maw knew about their activities, but Maw defended himself by saying the statement of Lack was that of a half drunken person and denied knowledge of his activities. Maw also said the liquor commission had investigated Lack earlier and warned him that if he

⁴⁷ Allen, Robert (ed.), Our Sovereign State, (New York: Vanguard Press, 1949), 364.

⁴⁸ Salt Lake Tribune, August 17, 1947.

violated one law, he would prefer charges against him, and remove his agency from him. Under a grand jury investigation several hundred pinball machines were seized, however, no other indictments were made. It was interesting to note that the major witnesses who had appeared before the jury were from Price, where J. Bracken Lee, who was also running for the Governorship, had been mayor.⁴⁹

Maw tried to turn the election campaign into a moral-religious issue. Maw said Lee was an ally of liquor and gambling interests, and would make Utah an open state similar to Nevada. Maw in a "Dear Brother" letter, appealed to the priesthood members of the Mormon Church, warning them of the danger of becoming an open state and lowering the states moral standards.⁵⁰ Lee's party had the letter published, and said that Maw was trying to create a political division on the basis of religion. Lee's supporters also said the letter was trying to cover up the bribery of the administration by making the election a moral issue. The Mormon Church also issued a statement of reproof; President Smith said, "No one can speak for the church except over the signature of the first presidency, and that action by a group of church members did not indicate action by the church itself".⁵¹

The campaign centered around the liquor situation, since sale by the drink drew opposition from the Mormon Church on moral grounds, and liquor law enforcement became a strong issue for both

⁴⁹ Allen, Robert (ed.), Our Sovereign State, (New York: Vanguard Press, 1949), 366-7.

⁵⁰ Deseret News, October 31, 1948.

⁵¹ Allen, Robert (ed.), Our Sovereign State, (New York: Vanguard Press, 1949), 366.

Maw and Lee. On October 27, 1947, Maw and Lee debated campaign issues on the radio. Lee claimed the administration was corrupt and inefficient, while Maw pointed out that his administration canceled the state debt, increased the pay for teachers, and increased the old age pensions. Both candidates claimed victory in the debate.⁵²

On November 1, 1948, a group called the Law Observance Committee of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Stakes in Salt Lake County published a full page advertisement in favor of Lee. The committee had investigated Lee and found his attitudes favorable on the sale of liquor by the drink, horse racing, slot machines, gambling, and other vices.⁵³ Labor supported Maw, but many people voted for Lee because of his personality, and his 1946 support of placing the sale by the drink issue on the ballot as a referendum measure. Maw received very little favorable editorial comment, since the press in Utah was traditionally conservative. For the first time in twenty-four years a Republican was elected governor of Utah, however, the Democratic Party obtained all of the offices with the exception of the governorship. Out of 290,775 registered voters in Utah, 275,000 voted in the election; over ninety per cent of the voters came to the polls and ended Herbert B. Maw's tenure as governor.⁵⁴

⁵² Salt Lake Tribune, October 28, 1947, p. 15.

⁵³ Deseret News, November 2, 1948, p. 12.

⁵⁴ Jonas, Frank, "The 1948 Elections in Utah", The Western Political Quarterly, XI (March, 1949), 125.

CONCLUSION

Many aspects of Maw's two administrations have been harshly criticized, and very little good has been said about his actions while governor. Under Maw's administration the Department of Publicity and Industrial Development was created to industrialize Utah, and to attract tourists and investors. This department publicized and made surveys of the raw materials in Utah. It also organized and operated factories and museums. Roads were built for the motion picture industry and the department authorized and built the Centennial Highway, independent of the State Road Commission. According to Ernest Linford, a prominent Rocky Mountain newspaperman, Maw used many of these programs to help influence voters, such as building a new high school in an area where he needed support. He also claimed that many of the employees of the department wrote campaign literature for Maw.⁵⁵

Lee claimed the welfare program of the administration served as a political agent for the Governor. Maw's office operated a special investigation and rehabilitation staff to remove chiselers from the welfare rolls, which was independent of the state and county welfare commissions. The chief welfare investigator for this agency was Robert Siddoway, who also headed the Old Age Pension and Assistance Organization. Lee said that Siddoway received

⁵⁵Allen, Robert (ed.), Our Sovereign State, (New York: Vanguard Press, 1949), 364.

annual payments for travel to eliminate chiselers, but what he did was to frighten old age pensioners into believing if they did not vote for Democrats they would be cut off the relief rolls.⁵⁶

Siddoway said he took his two weeks vacation with pay to inform people and organize meetings of the aged in the state, giving them facts with reference to who was responsible for their benefits.⁵⁷

Siddoway's dual role may indicate that he used his position for political objectives, but there is not enough evidence to substantiate the charges made by Lee.

Maw was for the common man, and his plans for industrialization and attracting the tourist trade brought the liberals of both parties to his banner. At the beginning of his career, he established the direct primary and then purged the party, however, he then appointed his political allies who were not always competent or loyal to the party. These appointees removed the luster of the liberal movement. Many people criticized Maw by saying he was an opportunist and jumped to popular causes for his own personal advancement.⁵⁸ This feeling among the people, whether true or not, led to his defeat at the polls.

Maw, a typical western type "New Dealer", is overly criticized because Utah is traditionally a conservative state. During his two terms as governor he accomplished the following: reorganization of

⁵⁶ Salt Lake Tribune, October 6, 1948.

⁵⁷ Ibid., October 7, 1948.

⁵⁸ Allen, Robert (ed.), Our Sovereign State, (New York: Vanguard Press, 1949), 364.

the state government, reformed the public welfare system, brought industry into Utah, reduced the electricity rates, removed Utah from debt, established a board for water conservation, and played a major role in the annual conferences of state governors.

He was a strong administrator and took the initiative in most of the programs during his administration. Most of the major legislation occurred during his first term. During his three elections he had trouble keeping his party from bolting into the Republican ranks, which made the elections rather close and in 1948 spelled his defeat. This may be due to the fact that Utah is traditionally a scratching state or because the more conservative Democrats did not agree with his progressive policies. Many people believed Haw was an opportunist, while others say he was a dedicated individual. From the evidence, it appears that his policies were not always free from corruption, but Utah was in need of the reforms which he enacted. Many of the programs Haw urged, such as industrializing the state, developing agriculture, bettering the facilities and quality of education, and expanding the tourist trade, are major problems which face Utah today.

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